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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/750,454 | 12/29/2003 | Milan Milenkovic | 884.A62US1 | 4970 |

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| EXAMINER | |
|---|---|
| LA, ANH V | |

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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| 2612 | |

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 10/750,454 | MILENKOVIC ET AL | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Anh V. La | 2636 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-60 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-60 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6, 8-41, and 43-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cromer (US 6,177,860).

Regarding claim 1, Cromer discloses a system comprising a plurality of electronic devices 410, wherein selected ones of the devices include a physical-tag 411 and logical-tag 411, wherein the physical-tag includes a physical-tag identifier and logical-tag includes logical attribute information (column 3, line 30- col. 4, line 30), at least one physical-tag reading device 219, 419 reading the physical-tag identifier from the physical tag over an air interface, at least one logical-tag reading device (abstract) to cause a software agent to read the logical attribute information from the logical-tag and a processing element being operable to associate the identifier with the attribute information (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claim 2, Cromer discloses an asset manager storing a plurality of tracking records (col. 3, line 30- col. 4, line 30, col. 11, lines 1-30).

Regarding claim 3, Cromer discloses a physical-tag identifier, a logical-tag identifier, a device type, a device owner identifier, a user identifier, and device location information (col. 3, line 30- col. 4, line 30, col. 11, lines 1-30).

Regarding claim 4, Cromer discloses an apparatus comprising a logical-tag 411 including an information storage medium 111 (col. 2, lines 60-65), logical attribute information including a configuration description of an electronic device 410, a software agent, an information request from a requester (col. 2, lines 10-67, col. 3, line 30- col. 4, line 30, col. 4, line 65-col. 5, line 5).

Regarding claim 5, Cromer discloses a physical-tag 411 including a physical-tag identifier.

Regarding claim 6, Cromer discloses a RFID tag 411, a storage medium, a physical-tag reading device219, 419 using a RF signal.

Regarding claim 8, Cromer discloses a physical-tag identifier, a logical-tag identifier, a device type, a device owner identifier, a user identifier, and device location information (col. 3, line 30- col. 4, line 30, col. 11, lines 1-30).

Regarding claim 9, Cromer discloses an apparatus comprising a processor 215, 219 to create an information request to request logical attribute information that is stored by a logical-tag 411 of a remote electronic device 410, wherein the attribute information includes a configuration description for the device, and an interface 219, 215 sending the information request to the device and receiving the attribute information from the device (abstract, col. 2, lines 10-35, col. 3, line 30- col. 4, line 30, col. 11, lines 1-30).

Regarding claim 10, Cromer discloses the processor associating a physical-tag identifier with the attribute information wherein the physical-tag identifier including a

physical-tag identifier associated with the electronic device (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claim 11, Cromer discloses an asset manager storing a plurality of tracking records (col. 3, line 30- col. 4, line 30, col. 11, lines 1-30).

Regarding claim 12, Cromer discloses a display device 215, a physical-tag identifier, a logical-tag identifier, a device type, a device owner identifier, a user identifier, and device location information (col. 3, line 30- col. 4, line 30, col. 11, lines 1-30).

Regarding claim 13, Cromer discloses an apparatus comprising an information storage medium 411 for storing logical attribute information that includes a configuration description for an electronic device 410 and a software agent to retrieve the logical attribute information from the information storage medium 411 to an information request form a requester and to send the logical attribute information to the requester (abstract, col. 2, lines 10-35, col. 3, line 30- col. 4, line 30, col. 11, lines 1-30).

Regarding claims 14-15, Cromer discloses a processor (abstract, col. 2, lines 10-35, col. 3, line 30- col. 4, line 30, col. 11, lines 1-30).

Regarding claim 16, Cromer discloses an apparatus comprising a physical-tag reading device 219, 419 which is operable to read over an air interface, a physical-tag identifier indicated by a physical-tag associated with an electronic device 410, and a processor, operable coupled to the reading device, which associate the physical-tag identifier with logical attribute information that includes a configuration description for the electronic device (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claim 17, Cromer discloses a display device 215, a physical-tag identifier, a logical-tag identifier, a device type, a device owner identifier, a user identifier, and device location information (col. 3, line 30- col. 4, line 30, col. 11, lines 1-30).

Regarding claim 18, Cromer discloses a logical information retrieval device 215.

Regarding claim 19, Cromer discloses a logical-tag reading device 215, 419, a wireless link (figure 2).

Regarding claim 20, Cromer discloses a logical-tag reading device 215, 419, a network connection (figure 2).

Regarding claim 21, Cromer discloses an interface 215 and a database.

Regarding claim 22, Cromer discloses the physical-tag reading device 219, 419 obtaining the attribute information from the physical tag.

Regarding claim 23, Cromer discloses the physical-tag reading device 219, 419 writing the attribute information to the physical tag.

Regarding claim 24, Cromer discloses an apparatus comprising a physical-tag reading device 219, 419 for reading, over an air interface, a physical-tag identifier indicated by a physical-tag associated with an electronic device 410 and a communication interface that is operable to provide the identifier to a remote processing element, which associates the identifier with logical attribute information that includes a configuration description of the electronic device (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claim 25, Cromer discloses the communication interface providing information that enables the remote processing element to identify a location of the device (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claim 26, Cromer discloses a storage medium 111.

Regarding claim 27, Cromer discloses wireless interface (fig. 2).

Regarding claim 28, Cromer discloses network interface (fig. 2).

Regarding claim 29, Cromer discloses an apparatus comprising a processor receiving logical attribute information that includes a configuration description for a remote electronic device 410 and receiving a physical-tag identifier indicated by a physical-tag 411 associated with the electronic device and storing, within a database, the attribute information and the identifier in association with each other, and the database, connected to the processor, for storing a plurality of tracking records, wherein a first tracking record includes the attribute information and the physical-tag identifier for the electronic device, and the other tracking records including attribute information and physical-tag identifier for other electronic device (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claims 30-31, Cromer discloses an interface 215, 219.

Regarding claim 32, Cromer discloses a method creating a tracking record for a remote electronic device 410, wherein the tracking record includes a physical-tag identifier 411 and tracking information, wherein the identifier includes a value indicated by a physical-tag associated with the device, and the tracking information includes logical attribute information stored by a logical-tag 411 associated with the device and

updating the tracking record when updated tracking information is received (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claim 33, Cromer discloses physical-tag reading device 219, 419.

Regarding claim 34, Cromer discloses sending a request to the electronic device for current logical attribute information, receiving a response from the device and updating the tracking record (col. 4, line 60- col. 5, line 10).

Regarding claim 35, Cromer discloses receiving from a physical-tag reading device a request of a portion of the tracking information and returning the tracking information to the tag reading device (col. 4, line 60- col. 5, line 10).

Regarding claim 36, Cromer discloses verifying that the tag reading device has permission to access the tracking information before sending the tracking information (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claim 37, Cromer discloses a method comprising associating a physical-tag 411 with an electronic device 410, wherein the physical-tag includes a physical-tag identifier that is readable over an air interface, associating a logical-tag 411 with the electronic device 410, wherein the logical-tag includes logical attribute information that includes a configuration description for the electronic device, updating the attribute information by the logical-tag, receiving a request for at least part of the logical attribute information from a remote requester having information regarding the physical-tag, and sending the logical attribute information to the remote requester in response the request (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35, col. 4, line 60-col. 5, line 10).

Regarding claim 38, Cromer discloses identifying system hardware and software configurations, updating corresponding fields within the logical attribute information, and updating a timestamp (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claim 39, Cromer discloses receiving new logical attribute information from a remote source, updating correspond fields, and updating a timestamp (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claim 40, Cromer discloses a method comprising a physical-tag reading device 219, 419, over an air interface, a physical-tag identifier indicated by a physical-tag 411 with an electronic device 410, and retrieving logical attribute information that includes a configuration description for the electronic device based on the tag identifier (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claim 41, Cromer discloses RF signal (fig. 2).

Regarding claim 43, Cromer discloses a remote database (col. 4, line 60- col. 5, line 10).

Regarding claim 44, Cromer discloses requesting the attribute information from a logical-tag associated with the electronic device (col. 4, line 60- col. 5, line 10).

Regarding claim 45, Cromer discloses a storage medium 111.

Regarding claim 46, Cromer discloses retrieving the attribute information from the physical tag (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claim 47, Cromer discloses the tag reading device writing at least a portion of the attribute information to the physical-tag (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claim 48, Cromer discloses a display device 215, a physical-tag identifier, a logical-tag identifier, a device type, a device owner identifier, a user identifier, and device location information (col. 3, line 30- col. 4, line 30, col. 11, lines 1-30).

Regarding claim 49, Cromer discloses a method comprising a physical-tag reading device 219, 419, over an air interface, a physical-tag identifier indicated by a physical-tag 411 with an electronic device 410, and providing the identifier to a remote processing element, which associates with the identifier with logical attribute information that includes a configuration description for the electronic device (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claim 50, Cromer discloses determining a location of the tag reading device (col. 11, lines 11-30).

Regarding claim 51, Cromer discloses storing the identifier and sending the identifier to the processing element (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claim 52, Cromer discloses a method comprising crating an information request to request logical attribute information that is stored by a logical-tag 411 of a remote electronic device 410, wherein the attribute information includes a configuration description for the remote electronic device, sending the information request to the remote electronic device, and receiving the attribute information from the remote electronic device (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35, col. 4, line 60-col. 5, lines 10).

Regarding claim 53, Cromer discloses a physical-tag identifier 411.

Regarding claim 54, Cromer discloses a tracking record (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claim 55, Cromer discloses a display device 215, a physical-tag identifier, a logical-tag identifier, a device type, a device owner identifier, a user identifier, and device location information (col. 3, line 30- col. 4, line 30, col. 11, lines 1-30).

Regarding claim 56, Cromer discloses a method of a logical-tag 411 of an electronic device 410 storing logical attribute information that includes a configuration description for the electronic device, retrieving the attribute information in response to an information request from a requester, and sending the logical attribute information to the requester (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35, col. 4, line 60- col. 5, lines 10).

Regarding claim 57, Cromer discloses a trigger event (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35, col. 4, line 60-col. 5, lines 10).

Regarding claim 58, Cromer discloses a computer readable medium having a method comprising creating a tracking record for a remote electronic device 410, wherein the tracking record includes a physical-tag identifier 411 and tracking information, wherein the identifier includes a value indicated by a physical-tag associated with the device, and the tracking information includes logical attribute information stored by a logical-tag 411 associated with the device and updating the

tracking record when updated tracking information is received (abstract, col. 3, line 30- col.4, line 30, col. 2, lines 10-35).

Regarding claim 59, Cromer discloses physical-tag reading device 219, 419.

Regarding claim 60, Cromer discloses sending a request, receiving a response, and updating the tracking record (col. 4, line 60- col. 5, line 10).

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 7 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cromer in view of Muehl (US 6,859,757).

Regarding claim 7 and 42, Cromer discloses all the claimed subject matter as set forth above in the rejection of claim 4, but does not disclose an optical scanner. Muehl teaches the use of an optical scanner (col. 4, line 60- col. 5, line 10). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include an optical scanner to the apparatus of Cromer as taught by Muehl for the purpose of indicating the physical-tag identifier.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lewis, Kaufman, McCall, and Kishigami teach tracking systems.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh V. La whose telephone number is (571) 272-2970. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 9:30am to 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffery Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**ANH V. LA**
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Anh V La
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2636

Al
March 16, 2006